

to the pressures from the White House to renegotiate a bill that the President said he would sign after it had already been agreed to by both Houses of this Congress on a bipartisan basis.

I commend our majority leader, Senator LOTT, who came in to his job quite suddenly just a few months ago without very much notice and, yet, has fought so hard to make Congress live up to its responsibility to the people of our country and pass the laws that will improve the lives of the people of our country and improve accountability to the people of our country. He has said we must fund our Government in a responsible way, and he set out to make that happen.

So with very little experience, our majority leader has done an incredible job of making sure that we do not let the people of our country down, but it has been made a very difficult chore for him by a constantly moving negotiation.

We talked about the great sports metaphor using the goal posts. As the distinguished Senator from Wyoming said yesterday, we not only moved the goal posts, we moved the whole game. We moved it out of the stadium by acceding to a President's wishes who would not say, "A deal is a deal," and kept saying, "A deal is a deal, but what more can I get?"

So, Mr. President, I hope that, if this continuing resolution passes, we can reform the procedures here and that we can have a President whose word is good so that we will be able to become accountable to the taxpayers of our country, let the taxpayers know that they are getting their money's worth and that the test will be able to stand the light of day. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Illinois.

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, before I get into what I came on the floor to remark about, if I could just comment on the last part of what the distinguished Senator from Texas had to say.

While I would differ with her characterization of President Clinton's posture, her praise for Senator LOTT as majority leader is right on target. I had the privilege of serving with TRENT LOTT in the House and now here in the Senate. When a new leader comes in, there is a big question mark. Frankly, I did not know what kind of a majority leader he would be. My impression is he is serving his party and the Senate and the Nation very well. I, as one who was uncertain, now have the impression that Senator LOTT and his leadership is going to be very good for the Nation.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SIMON. I will be pleased to yield to my colleague.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I just want to say that the statement that was just made by the Senator from Illinois is so typical of this man,

who is probably spending his last hours with us in the U.S. Senate. His voice of reason, his absolute integrity, and his willingness to say what he thinks about a Member of the other party, regardless of what it is, is always said in a civil way, and in this case I think very much on target. I just want to say that his distinguished voice will be much missed in the next convening of our U.S. Senate.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. SIMON. I thank my colleague from Texas. Let me add, it is typically gracious of her to have made those remarks.

MANDATORY SENTENCES

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, my reason for coming to the floor is to say that I have a hold, and will continue to have a hold, on a bill that deals with pornography for minors until the mandatory sentence provisions are removed. I have always opposed mandatory sentences, for reasons that I will spell out in a moment.

I do believe that we have to be tougher in this area of pornography and making it a Federal offense, when frequently interstate commerce is involved and cannot be proved, I think is a wise thing.

I differ with the idea of mandatory sentences. I have always opposed the mandatory minimums. Mandatory minimums are good politics but bad justice. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, with whom I do not always agree, has said, Congress is making a great mistake in passing mandatory minimums. I think he is correct.

Part of the mandatory minimums on this pornography bill—and all of us are saddened when we see the kind of pornography that occasionally is in our society—but, for example, it has a two-strikes-and-you're-out provision.

Let us just say an 18-year-old is involved in pornography with a 16-year-old. I do not for a moment defend that reprehensible conduct. But if we pass this bill as it is, that 18-year-old would be sentenced to prison for the rest of his life. I do not think we are in a position to judge the situation.

A long, long time ago, a man by the name of Plato wrote a book called *Republic*, in which he said, "Elect good judges"—maybe he said "select good judges;" I am not sure which it was—but then leave the sentences up to the judges. I think that is sound. That is what Chief Justice Rehnquist says we should do, and I believe that is what we should do.

So, as long as the mandatory minimums are in the bill, I will object. The idea of strengthening our laws against pornography I strongly favor. But I think the sentences should be up to the judges, guided by the sentencing commission.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR FRANK MURKOWSKI

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I see my distinguished colleague from Alaska on the floor. Let me just add, I inserted something in the RECORD not too long ago. Senator MURKOWSKI has been one of the leaders in trying to fashion responsible policies toward North Korea. The one area in the world where you have more troops facing each other, with virtually no contact between the two sides in terms of communication, is North Korea and South Korea. Senator MURKOWSKI, who does not get any votes in Alaska by providing leadership in this area, has rendered a service to this Nation by trying to guide us in a sensible direction. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I wonder if I might ask, are we under a 5-minute time limit for morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair advises the Senator from Alaska we are in a period for morning business with each Senator's remarks limited to 5 minutes.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may be allowed to speak in morning business for 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL SIMON

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I was hoping to respond to my good friend, the senior Senator from Illinois, with regard to his remarks on North Korea. Having had an opportunity to travel to North Korea with Senator SIMON, I have often reflected on the value of that trip and the understanding that was gained with a country that is probably more remote than any other country on Earth, a country that both the Senator from Illinois and I agree is under tremendous strain during the transition that is occurring in North Korea and the fact that that country is very dangerous.

But I just want to cite, in passing, to my friend from Illinois how much his presence will be missed in this body and what an extraordinary contribution the senior Senator from Illinois has made.

Mr. SIMON. Thank you.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. I wish both he and his lady well, as they go on to fulfill other ambitions and desires in life.

You leave this Senate with a very proud record. And I am very pleased to have had your friendship and your association through the years. I wish you well, my friend.

Mr. SIMON. I thank you very much.